GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2621
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007
INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:

(a) the main issues discussed in the 94th Indian Science Congress; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to raise the standard of research and development in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Sir, the main issues discussed at the Indian Science Congress, 94th Session are as under :-

(i) Energy Security

(ii) Water Resources

(iii) Earth-Ocean-Atmosphere interaction, Climate Change, Monsoon forecast.

(iv) Ocean Resources.

(v) Natural Hazards

(vi) Anthropogenic Hazard; Waste Management and Environmental issues

(vii) Education and Science

(viii) Synergy of Science and Industry

(ix) Space Applications for Planet Earth

(x) Nano Technology

(xi) Agriculture

(xii) Conflict Management in Natural resources

(xiii) Medical Science : Role of free radicals and antioxidants in disease.

(xiv) Nutrition and Health

(xv) Mysteries of Planet Earth

(xvi) Geosciences in the 21st Century (Discussion Session)

(xvii) Earth Science Education in India : Opportunities and Challenges

(Discussion Session)

(xviii) International Year of Planet Earth : Indian Initiatives (Discussion Session)

(xix) International Collaborations in Science and Technology (Discussion Session).

(b) The Government of India, on its part, has taken a number of steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other scientific institutes of excellence. The Plan Allocation of scientific departments has been doubled from about Rs.12000 crore in the IX Plan to about Rs.25000 crore in the X Plan and it is planned to increase it further in the XI Plan. The Research Infrastructure programme of DST is a targeted programme to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational

institutions. Several institutions, centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established; for example, in the areas of Brain Research, Marine Biotechnology, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Soft Computing, Water Resources Development, Nanophosphors, Display Technology, Fuel Cell Technology, Ultrafast Processes, Protein Research, etc. More recently, three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh which, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment. Various agencies of Government of India have now attractive scholarship, fellowship and research support schemes for scientific manpower of all ages starting right from the school level.